CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. A digital content distribution and viewing system, comprising:

a source of at least one of pre-recorded or live digital content;

a transport mechanism for distributing said digital content to a plurality of theater locations where said digital content can be viewed by an audience; and

at said plurality of theater locations, a video camera for monitoring and generating a monitoring video signal of the audience under low-light conditions.

2. A digital content distribution and viewing system according to claim 1 comprising a backchannel for transporting said monitoring video signal to one or more locations.

3. A system as in claim 2, wherein said backchannel comprises the Internet.

4. A digital content distribution and viewing system according to claim 1 further comprising a store and forward server for receiving said digital content and at least one script for controlling an action of said theater, the action being associated with the viewing of said digital content.

5. A digital content distribution and viewing system according to claim 4 wherein the backchannel is used to transport a log that is descriptive of said action to a remote site.

6. A digital content distribution and viewing system according to claim 1 wherein said monitoring video signal is combined with a time stamp associated with said digital

content for synchronizing said monitoring video signal with said digital content distributed to said theater.

7. A digital content distribution and viewing system according to claim 1 wherein said video camera comprises an infrared (IR) camera.

8. A digital content distribution and viewing system according to claim 1 wherein said digital content is selected from the group consisting of pre-record content, live content, and video games

9. A digital content distribution and viewing system according to claim 1 further comprising:

a form generator for generating a form, said generated form being transported to at least one of said plurality of theater locations and associated with said digital content; and

a data collection device for receiving said generated form at said at least one theater location.

10. A digital content distribution and viewing system according to claim 9 wherein said data collection device receives a user input signal for registering a user response to said generated form.

11. A digital content distribution and viewing system according to claim 9 wherein said data collection device content is selected from the group consisting of a mobile phone, a PDA (personal digital assistant), a pager, and a portable computer.

12. A digital content distribution and viewing system, comprising:

a source of at least one of pre-recorded or live digital content;

a transport mechanism for distributing said digital content to a plurality of theater locations in an encrypted format using a first encryption technique, said theater locations having theater equipment enabling said digital content to be viewed by an audience; and

a store and forward server at said theater locations for receiving and operatively decrypting said digital content, and for encrypting said digital content using a second encryption technique before transmitting said digital content to an input of a digital projection system coupled to an output of said store and forward server.

13. A digital content distribution and viewing system, comprising:

a source of at least one of pre-recorded or live digital content;

a transport mechanism for distributing said digital content to a plurality of theater locations in an encrypted format using a first encryption technique, said theater locations enabling said digital content to be viewed by an audience with theater equipment;

at said theater locations, a store and forward server for receiving said digital content, said store and forward server having an output coupled to an input of a digital projection system; and

an interface module, interposed between the output of said store and forward server and the input of said digital projection system, operatively decrypting said digital content and encrypting said digital content using a second encryption technique before transmitting said digital content to the input of said digital projection system.